"BEST" PRACTICES IN LEARNING SUPPORT

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Agenda

• Icebreaker

- General Profile of Developmental Writers
- CoReq Challenges and Strategies
- Questions

Writing is Hard

- These are real headlines that appeared in newspapers:
 - "Teacher Strikes Idle Kids"
 - "Local High School Dropouts Cut in Half"
 - "Miners Refuse to Work After Death"

Who Are Developmental Writers?

 Need extra help with writing and transitioning to college

 Are often placed in Student Success courses

Respond at PollEv.com/ibrahimashour1

Text IBRAHIMASHOUR1 to 37607 once to join, then text your message

What are one or two characteristics of your CoReq students?

No responses received yet. They will appear here...



CoReq Challenge: Varying Levels of Confidence

Why students sometimes lack confidence in their writing:

- "[Students] must learn to speak our language. Or [they] must dare to speak it or to <u>carry off the bluff</u>, since speaking and writing will most certainly be required long before the skill is learned."
 - From David Bartholomae's "Inventing the University" (emphasis added)

Strategies for Raising a Student's Confidence

Create a positive, encouraging framework.

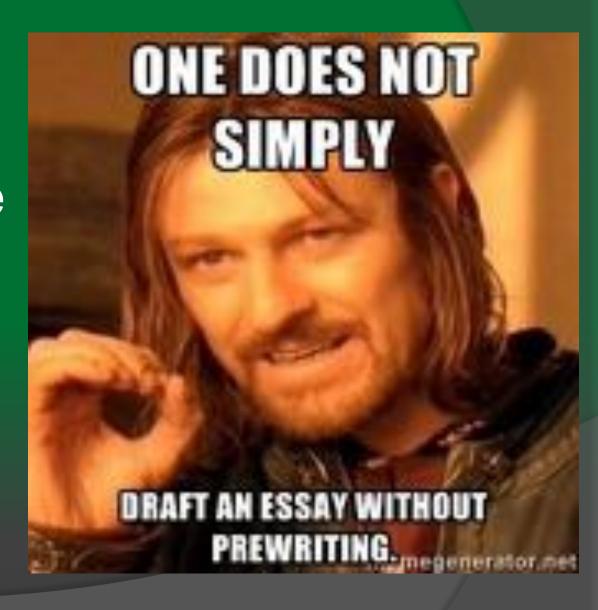
- First and most important: be nice.
 - It may surprise them.
- Try to stay positive.

Share your own stories.

Assign Prewriting

- Summary of what the student already knows about the subject
- An outline with grammatical topic sentences and general descriptions of evidence

 A list of citable sources the student plans to look at What is your most effective prewriting assignment or lesson plan?



Baby Steps

- Break the writing down into the smallest steps possible.
 - Reduces pressure by lowering the stakes.
 - Increases success & prevents total failure.
 - Gives the teacher opportunities to praise small successes.
 - Allows teacher to redirect before the final draft is due.

CoReq Challenge: Diverse Writing Skills

- "The duty and office of rhetoric is to apply reason to the imagination for the better moving of the will."
 - From Francis Bacon's The Advancement of Learning.
 - We're not sure what it means either, but it sounds nice.
- Remember and remind them that writing is not a "one and done" subject.
 - Use them or lose them skills
 - Practice and develop beyond FY writing classes

Don't Forget Revision

- It's more than just proofreading
- Higher-order and lower-order concerns
 - Add Remove Rephrase Rearrange
 - ARRR!
- Guided or focused revision assignments can help teach the process.

What is your most effective revision assignment or lesson plan?



CoReq Challenge: How to Handle All That Text

- So much to read!
 - If possible, read a synopsis first.
 - Wikipedia is great for this.
 - Set a reading schedule.
 - Create a reverse outline.
 - This is something that can be assigned.
 - Write in the book.
 - Annotation is your conversation with the text and your notes to yourself.

I'm Too Texty for This Slide

- So much to write!
 - Set a schedule of milestones.
 - Break it down into manageable chunks.
 - Write down exactly what will be done during what time on what day.
 - Help the student estimate how much time each task will require.

CoReq Challenge: Getting Students to Ask for Help

 Create a welcoming classroom environment

- Suspend and refrain from projecting judgment
- Answer the frustrating questions, while directing them to an appropriate resource

It's Not Just Students

- Workers on average check their email inbox 30 times per hour.
 - From "Attention Span Statistics," StaticBrain.com
 - You might have received a new email since you sat down!
 - I'm sure that whatever is says is much more interesting than these lame English teachers.

Have Them Write Something Down

- A free write before a whole-class discussion can help prepare students to participate.
- Making lists can help students brainstorm and consider options.
- Reading something they wrote aloud reminds them that they have to stand by what they write.

Flip the Classroom

• Lower-order learning (information gathering) happens outside of the classroom.

- Higher-order learning (application of concepts) happens in the classroom.
- Or more simply—Use class time to have students use what they have learned.

Scaffold with Peers

- Use guided activities to replace the teacher's help with a peer's help.
- Enlist advanced peers to make use of communication paths that are unavailable to teachers.
- Develop novice writers' awareness of an audience.

CoReq Challenge: Students' Support Networks

- First-generation students are
 - More likely to come from lower-income families
 - More likely to be an ethnic or racial minority
- About 27% graduate from college within four years, compared with 42% for non-first generation college students

Source: UCLA Higher Education Research Institute

Strategies for Helping Students Who Lack Support

- Check in with them directly and frequently, using informal contact to learn about them and give advice
- Collaborate with mentors and tutors
- Offer help and knowledge when possible
 - How to meet with a mentor/advisor
 - Where the writing center is
 - Where the Career Development & Advising Center is
 - Walking a student to counseling center

CoReq Challenge: Students Spread Too Thin

 About 40% of college students in the US work at least 30 hours a week.

Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce

- GGC's student body has a large number of working students, many full-time.
 - How about your respective institutions?

Too Much Work

• Working 15+ hours a week tends to hurt academic, debt, and earnings outcomes for students of all backgrounds.

Source: ACT Center for Equity in Learning

Strategies for Helping Students Who are Overcommitted

- Do the math: "How many hours will you have to work to make back the lost tuition of a failed or withdrawn class?"
- Have them make a detailed weekly schedule.
 - Make sure they plan for 8 hours of sleep, 3 meals, and realistic recreation time, in addition to school and work activities.

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Thanks!